



MONTGOMERY COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION

Kenita V. Barrow
Chair

Mark L. Greenblatt
Vice Chair

July 29, 2014

Waiver 14-07-003

Pursuant to § 19A-12(b)(1)(B) of the Public Ethics Law, a public employee must not be employed by a business that negotiates or contracts with the County agency with which the public employee is affiliated, unless the Ethics Commission grants a waiver.

Allelign Sisay works at the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Office of Aging and Disability Services as a Social Worker screening incoming requests for services and recommending services to meet customers' needs. He requests a waiver of the prohibition of § 19A-12(b)(1)(B) so that he can be employed by Suburban Hospital as a Crisis Evaluation Therapist in the Emergency Room of the hospital.

Suburban Hospital contracts with DHHS by providing a wide range of services that include outpatient counseling services for substance abusing children and adolescents and their families and a program for the prevention of cancer through education and screening of low income residents. Mr. Sisay does not work for or have any involvement with these programs at DHHS nor would he have any connection with these services in his employment at Suburban Hospital.

Pursuant to § 19A-8(b)(3) of the Public Ethics Law, the Ethics Commission may grant a waiver of the prohibition of § 19A-12(b) if the Ethics Commission concludes that the proposed employment is not likely to create an actual conflict of interest. Upon a review of the request and the Department's concurrence in and support for the waiver request, the Commission finds that there is no actual conflict of interest. Pursuant to the standard of § 19A-8(b)(3), the Commission grants the waiver of the prohibition of § 19A-12(b).

In reaching this decision, the Commission has relied upon the facts as presented by Mr. Sisay.

For the Commission:

Kenita V. Barrow, Chair

Montgomery County Ethics Commission